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## **Jelinek Restores Community College Funding**

*Alpena, Bay de Noc and Gogebic community college to receive additional \$150,000*

LANSING - Senator Ron Jelinek, R-Three Oaks, today announced the passage of House Bill 4388 by the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Community College, which he chairs.

Under the Senate version, Alpena, Bay de Noc and Gogebic community colleges will each received an additional \$150,000 for operations.

“I wanted to make sure these three community colleges, who were already hit hard by budget cuts, were going to be on a level playing field,” said Senator Jelinek. “They are already looking at a 10 percent reduction from the FY 2002-03 budget.”

The additional dollars for these three community colleges were found without pro-rata or further reduction to the rest of Michigan’s 28 community colleges as once proposed. “This helps ensure a smaller reduction for our local community colleges who would have felt a larger state fund reduction. This was made possible by a unique collaborative effort between all of Michigan’s community colleges, Wayne Community College in particular. WCC agreed to a one-time reduction in their state appropriation to make this possible. They are to be commended,” Jelinek said.

House Bill 4388 will move to the full Senate Appropriations Committee next week, and then will be moved to the Senate floor.